

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 18-22 without prejudice or disclaimer in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer application managing method for a case where a plurality of computer applications are stored in a computer-readable storage at locations of the storage, the method comprising:

electronically storing, in the computer-readable storage, a directory structure corresponding to the plurality of applications;

in the computer-readable storage, giving information of the application addresses directly to directories of the directory structure, respectively, the application address information being for identifying the applications, respectively, where the applications are needed for corresponding data files stored in the computer-readable storage using the directories, respectively; and

electronically performing management so that when one of the data files is selected a needed application corresponding to the data file of a directory of the directories is automatically selected and executed by referring to the selected data file's directory to obtain its application's address information and therewith access and execute the application at the computer-readable storage location of the thus-obtained address information given to the directory, where the selection for execution is responsive to the data file of the directory being selected,

wherein one of the plurality of applications is needed when one of the data files is selected.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer application managing method, according to claim 1, further comprising:

preparing an application management table storing the information of the application addresses; and

referring to the application management table when a directory of the directories is selected, so as to recognize a starting address of an application of the plurality of applications,

the starting address corresponding to an item of the application address information given to the directory of the directories, and to access the application of the plurality of applications.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer application managing method, according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing size information at a starting address of each application of the plurality of applications, the size information indicating a size of the application of the plurality of applications; and

repeating detection of the size of an application of the plurality of applications from the size information stored in the starting address of the application of the plurality of applications, and search for a starting address of a next application of the plurality of applications in accordance with the size of the preceding application of the plurality of applications, so as to obtain the starting address of a desired application of the plurality of applications.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer application managing method, according to claim 1, wherein an item of the information of the application addresses is given to the highest directory of the directory structure.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The application managing method, according to claim 1, wherein an item of the information of application addresses is given to each directory of the directory structure.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer application managing method, according to claim 1, wherein, when an application of the plurality of applications is substantially deleted, an item of the information of the application addresses for the application of the plurality of applications is caused to be ineffective.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer application managing method, according to claim 1,

wherein when an application of the plurality of applications is updated, an application obtained from updating the application of the plurality of applications is added to the plurality of applications, and

wherein an item of the information of the application addresses for identifying the application of the plurality of applications is changed to an item of identification information for

identifying the application obtained from updating the application of the plurality of applications.

9-22. (CANCELLED)

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein the directories are predetermined.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 1, wherein the computer-readable storage comprises a memory card.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 24, wherein the memory card comprises an IC card.

26.- 28. (CANCELLED)

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information processing apparatus, comprising:
a computer-readable storage storing a plurality of applications at addresses of, the plurality of applications comprising: a directory structure in the computer-readable storage corresponding to the plurality of applications,

wherein in the computer-readable storage information of the application addresses are given directly to directories of the directory structure, respectively, the application address information identifying the applications, respectively, where the applications are needed for corresponding data files, and where the data files are organized and stored in the computer-readable storage using the directories of the directory structure,

and a controller performing management so that when one of the data files is selected a needed application corresponding to the data file of a directory of the directories is automatically selected and executed by referring to the selected data file's directory to obtain its application's address information and therewith access and execute the application at the computer-readable storage location of the thus-obtained address information given to the directory, where the selection for execution is responsive to the data file of the directory being selected

wherein one of the plurality of applications is needed when one of the data files is selected.